UNITED
NATIONS

E

Economic and Social
Council

GENERAL

E/ECE/1257
9 March 1992

Original: ENGLISH

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

Forty-seventh session
(Provisional Agenda item 2(g))

RESOLUTIONS BEARING ON THE WORK OF THE COMMISSION ADOPTED BY THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL AND THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Note by the Executive Secretary

1. In this Note the Executive Secretary brings to the Commission's attention the resolutions and decisions 1/ bearing on the work of the Commission which were adopted by the Economic and Social Council at its first and second regular sessions in 1991, and by the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session, namely during the period since the forty-sixth session of the Commission.

2. The resolutions and decisions are divided into two groups: Part I, those which directly bear on the work of the Commission, and Part II, those which the Commission may wish to keep in mind in its further work.

1/ The relevant extracts from these texts are quoted or summarized in this note as necessary. The full texts are contained in the official Records of the Council (E/1991/91 and Add.1) and of the General Assembly (A/46/49).

GE.92-20689 /7366a

PART I

A. RESOLUTIONS AND DECISIONS ADOPTED BY THE COUNCIL AT ITS REGULAR SESSIONS, 1991

1991/22 National, regional and interregional machinery for the advancement of women

3. In paragraph 5 the Council requests the Secretary-General, in cooperation with the regional commissions and within existing resources, to promote such an exchange of information through the United Nations documents, by supporting regional and subregional meeetings of national machineries, by using resources from the regular budget of the five regional commissions, by making provisions for it in the proposed budget for the biennium 1992-1993 and by annually updating and distributing the Directory of National Machinery for the Advancement of Women.

1991/51 International cooperation and coordination of efforts to address and mitigate the consequences of the accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant

4. For an account of ECE activities in this regard see paragraphs 28-30 below.

1991/57 Work of the Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods

5. In paragraph 2, the Secretary-General is requested to incorporate in the existing recommendations of the Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods all the new and amended recommendations approved by the Committee at its sixteenth session, to publish them in all the official languages of the United Nations, in the most cost-effective manner, not later than the end of 1991, and to circulate them immediately after publication. The English and French versions have been published and circulated (ST/SG/AC.10/1/Rev.7).

6. In paragraph 4, the Council invites all interested Governments and the international organizations concerned, when developing appropriate codes and regulations, to take full account of the recommendations of the Committee of Experts. The United Nations Recommendations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods are widely implemented worldwide through national regulations and international transport instruments, such as the IMO International Maritime Dangerous Goods Code, the ICAO Technical Instructions for the Safe Transport of Dangerous Goods by Air, the European Agreement concerning the International Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Road (ADR) and the Regulations concerning the International Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Rail. However, the Sub-Committee of Experts, in December 1991, expressed concern over the development, in particular in the context of the preparation of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, of new activities which might conflict with the United Nations Recommendations, for example in the field of harmonization of classification and labelling of chemicals, and strongly urged Governments to coordinate their work in different organizations to prevent conflicts with established rules and regulations relating to this field.

7. In paragraphs 5 and 6, the Council recommended once again that adequate funding be provided to support the work of the Committee, if possible by setting up a special fund, and requested the Secretary-General to make available, within existing resources, one additional Professional and one additional General Service post for the adequate servicing of the Committee. The ECE budget for the biennium 1992-1993, approved by the General Assembly, includes a new post at the P-3 level for this purpose.

1991/72 Membership of Israel in the Economic Commission for Europe

8. At its thirty-second plenary meeting on 26 July 1991, the Council adopted the following resolution:

The Economic and Social Council,

Considering the wide range of economic relations that exist between Israel and the States members of the Economic Commission for Europe,

Considering also that Israel has expressed its readiness to contribute to the work of the Commission by accepting the responsibilities inherent in full membership,

Considering further that, at its forty-sixth session, the Commission took note of the renewal of the application of Israel to the Council for temporary admission as a member of the Commission and looked forward to a decision by the Council on the admission of Israel in accordance with its application,

Decides to amend paragraph 7 of the terms of reference of the Economic Commission for Europe by adding Israel to the list of members of the Commission in accordance with its request for temporary admission as a member of the Commission, as contained in the letter dated 16 April 1991 from the Permanent Representative of Israel to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Economic and Social Council.

1991/74 Europe-Africa permanent link through the Strait of Gibraltar

9. In paragraph 1 the Council welcomes the cooperation between the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE), the Governments of Morocco and Spain and the Transport Study Centre for the Western Mediterranean.

10. In paragraph 2 it invites the States concerned and the competent scientific institutes and institutions to cooperate with the ECA, the ECE and the Governments of Morocco and Spain to encourage and facilitate the development of land transport infrastructures linked to the works across the Strait of Gibraltar and cooperation in regard to administrative and customs procedures.

11. In paragraphs 4 and 5 the Council requests the Executive Secretaries of the ECA and the ECE to prepare an evaluation report on the studies relating to the project in the period 1982-1993 for submission to the Council at its regular session of 1992, and calls upon the Secretary-General to allocate as far as possible sufficient resources to the ECA and the ECE, within existing priorities, for the preparation of the above-mentioned evaluation report.

1991/76 Promotion of interregional cooperation in the area of international trade facilitation

12. Conscious of the global importance of facilitation for improving the international trade of all countries, the Economic and Social Council, in its resolution 1989/118, called on the regional commissions, jointly with UNCTAD, to formulate a project for interregional cooperation in this area that would promote the reduction, simplification and harmonization of formalities, procedures and documentation, in particular through the phased application of the United Nations rules for Electronic Data Interchange for Administration, Commerce and Transport, UN/EDIFACT.

13. A project document for interregional cooperation, prepared by the regional commissions and UNCTAD, was submitted to the Council at its second regular session of 1990. At its second regular session in July 1991, the Council, recalling its previous resolutions on the subject, adopted resolution 1991/76 by which it requested the regional commissions, jointly with UNCTAD, to elaborate specific proposals relating to interregional cooperation in this field and present them to bilateral donors and funding organizations.

14. The ECE, together with the other regional commissions and UNCTAD, is in the process of finalizing such project proposals at both the regional and global levels. Conscious, however, that a solid foundation for UN/EDIFACT at the regional level should be created before proceeding to its global application, the ECE secretariat will start with the development of the training component of the regional project applicable to ECE economies in transition as well as to other ECE countries where facilitation of international trade procedures is still at an early stage.

1991/84 International Conference on Water and the Environment

15. In paragraph 4 the Council "Calls upon the governing bodies and secretariats of appropriate organizations of the United Nations system to submit, within their respective mandates and in close collaboration with Governments and the secretariats of the Dublin Conference and the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, substantive contributions to the Dublin Conference".

16. The ECE secretariat participated in the preparatory process for the International Conference on Water and the Environment (Dublin (Ireland), 26-31 January 1992). It provided a written contribution and participated actively in the discussions at the Conference.

1991/86 Development and efficient use of energy resources

17. In this resolution the Council recognized the importance of energy conservation and efficient management of energy resources as a means of preventing energy shortages in developing countries, and called upon the United Nations system and the international community, including developed countries, to intensify international exchanges of experience and the flow of efficient techologies to developing countries.

18. Within ECE the cooperation on the transfer of energy-efficient technologies and management practices takes place through the project "Energy Efficiency 2000". An ad hoc meeting on "Global Energy Efficiency 21 - an Inter-regional Approach" took place on 6 March 1992 and agreed on an international project to be financed from extra-budgetary resources and executed by the regional commissions, to enhance the capacities of developing countries to develop and implement their own energy-efficient systems (ENERGY/AC.13/2).

1991/92 Work programme in the field of population

19. This resolution, among other things, calls on the Secretary-General to continue work on population policies, reproductive behaviour, the family, and population distribution and migration, and also invites him to work closely, inter alia, with Member States in the implementation of programmes.

20. In response to Commission decision G (40), which called on the Executive Secretary to continue the work in the field of population, within existing resources, and to maintain collaboration with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the secretariat is currently engaged in four research projects, which are financially supported by UNFPA, in the fields of international migration, population ageing, fertility and the family, and population trends and policies.

1991/93 International Conference on Population and Development

21. This resolution, inter alia, invites regional commissions to convene as soon as possible meetings or conferences to review the experience gained in population policies and programmes in their regions and to propose future action as part of their contribution to the preparatory activities for the International Conference on Population and Development.

22. In response to this resolution and pursuant to Commission decision G (40) (see para. 20 above), the ECE, together with UNFPA and the Council of Europe, is preparing a European Population Conference, which will take place in Geneva on 23-26 March 1993. It will review policy related population issues and population policies in the ECE region as well as adopt recommendations on key population related issues and policies. The recommendations and other documents of this conference will be an input to the International Conference on Population and Development, scheduled for 1994.

B. RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AT ITS FORTY-SIXTH SESSION

46/96 Implementation of the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons and the United Nations Decade of Disabled Persons

23. A series of three workshops on rehabilitation engineering, organized in cooperation with the International Federation for Medical and Biological Engineering and the World Health Organization, constitutes the principal ECE contribution to mark the end of the United Nations Decade of Disabled Persons, 1983-1992.

24. The first Workshop (Washington D.C. (USA), June 1990) reviewed recent rehabilitation technologies and service delivery systems, and the second Workshop (Fagernes (Norway), May 1991) focused on economic and social aspects of rehabilitation engineering. The third, to be held at Trebon (Czech and Slovak Federal Republic) from 24 to 27 May 1992, will focus on international cooperation in the field, including technology transfer, exchange of information, education and training, with emphasis on supportive programmes and projects to be launched in countries in transition to market economies. A study on recent trends, foreseeable developments and suggested strategies would aim to promote rehabilitation engineering in the ECE region.

46/100 Improvement of the status of women in the Secretariat

25. In paragraph 1 the Assembly urges the Secretary-General to accord greater priority to the recruitment and promotion of women in posts subject to geographical distribution, particularly in senior policy level and decision making posts, in order to achieve the goals (resolutions 45/125 and 45/239 C) of an overall participation rate of 35% by 1995 and, to the extent possible, 25% in posts at the D-1 level and above by 1995.

26. In paragraph 3 the Assembly strongly encourages Member States to support the efforts of the United Nations by nominating more women candidates, encouraging women to apply for vacant posts and by creating national rosters of women candidates.

27. As of 1 March 1992 women occupy 16.5% of ECE posts subject to geographical distribution, although in 1991 43% of professional vacancies were filled by women.

46/150 Strengthening of international cooperation and the coordination of efforts to study, mitigate and minimize the consequences of the Chernobyl disaster

28. In paragraph 2 the Assembly welcomes the practical measures taken by the Secretary-General and the United Nations Coordinator of International Cooperation for Chernobyl including the setting up of the Inter-Agency Task Force and the preparation of the Joint Plan of international cooperation to mitigate the consequences of the Chernobyl disaster.

29. In paragraph 5 the Assembly requests inter alia the programmes of the United Nations system to continue the consideration of possible technical and other specialized assistance and specific actions in the areas most affected by the accident, particularly in Belarus, Ukraine and the Russian Federation, in close cooperation with the United Nations Coordinator, taking into account the Joint Plan introduced by the Secretary-General at the Chernobyl Pledging Conference held in New York on 20 September 1991.

30. The Executive Secetary's note E/ECE/1259 contains an account of ECE activities in this field.

46/168 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development

31. In paragraph 4 the Assembly "stresses the importance of the regional meetings held within the framework of preparations for the Conference, and in this regard calls upon the Preparatory Committee at its fourth session to continue to give due attention to the recommendations of all regional meetings, including those held recently".

32. The results of the Bergen Conference were submitted to the UNCED preparatory process. At Prepcom III consideration was also given to the document on environmental rights and obligations, a follow-up to the Bergen Conference. The ECE secretariat is contributing to the UNCED preparatory process and has attended the second, third and fourth Prepcom. The regional commissions submitted a joint document on their activities in the field of environment and development to the fourth meeting of the Preparatory Committee.

46/202 Impact of the recent evolution of east-west relations on the growth of the world economy, in particular in the economic growth and development of the developing countries, as well as on international economic cooperation

33. In paragraph 3 the Assembly recognized the need to enhance the positive aspects of the fundamental transformations in the central and east European countries and their integration into the world economy.

34. In paragraph 7 the Assembly requests the Secretary-General, in reviewing the impact of the recent evolution of east-west relations on the growth of the world economy, in particular on the economic growth and development of the developing countries, as well as on international economic cooperation, to submit to its forty-seventh session, a report containing inter alia an analysis of the impact on developing countries of the measures taken to integrate central and east European countries into the world economy.

35. The issue is also on the agenda of the Administrative Committee on Coordination (ACC). In preparation for that discussion all United Nations agencies have been invited to submit a description of the implications for their activities.

PART II

A. ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL REGULAR SESSIONS IN 1991

1991/17 Improvement of the status of women in the secretariat

1991/88 Permanent sovereignty over natural resources

1991/90 Coordination of programmes within the United Nations in the field of natural resources

1991/302 Convening of an ad hoc meeting of high-level experts on the revision of the mandate of the regional commissions.

B. GENERAL ASSEMBLY FORTY-SIXTH SESSION

46/42 Strengthening of security and cooperation in the Mediterranean region

46/98 Implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women

46/217 International cooperation in the monitoring, assessment and anticipation of environmental threats and in assistance in cases of environmental emergency.